

ESPRIT ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL

toward a living art

November 29, 30 and December 1, 1996

Dramatic vocal expressions; stunning orchestral film screenings blended with live orchestral performances; plus a magical, virtuosic orchestral-theatre piece are the highlights of this celebration of Canadian creativity.

Featuring:

RICHARD MARGISON

Canada's internationally -acclaimed
superstar tenor

RHOMBUS MEDIA INC.

World-renowned producer of award-winning
performing arts films

R. MURRAY SCHAFER

Leader in global sound-ecology (World Soundscape)
and composer of boundless dimensions

festival

Friday, November 29, 1996

concert 8:00 p.m. / pre-concert talk 7:00 p.m.

Jane Mallett Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre

27 Front Street East

Richard Margison - new roles

guest artists

RICHARD MARGISON (Canada), tenor

ELIZABETH TURNBULL (Canada), mezzo-soprano

A pre-concert talk features Montreal composers John Rea and José Evangelista. They will be joined by Esprit's Alex Pauk, whose new piece for Richard Margison will be premiered along with the orchestral version of John Rea's *Alma & Oskar*.

JOHN REA (Canada)

Alma & Oskar

for tenor, mezzo-soprano and orchestra

1994 (orchestrated 1996) **World Premiere** (orchestral version)

This melodrama (from beyond the grave) is a musical account of the love affair between Alma Schindler-Mahler and the visual artist and early Expressionist Oskar Kokoschka. As such, it alludes to music of the period and deals with memory, misunderstanding and the fruits of love.

WITOLD LUTOSLAWSKI (Poland)

Paroles tissées (Woven Words)

for tenor, strings, harp, piano and percussion, 1965

The music of Lutoslawski's *Paroles tissées* extends beyond the limits of the surrealistic "woven words" of Jean-François Chabrun's poem of the same name, reflecting Debussy's comment: "The music begins where the words end."

(continued on next page)

ALEX PAUK (Canada)

new work

for tenor and orchestra with viola obbligato, 1996

World Premiere

Richard Margison wanted to premiere a new Canadian piece on this concert and consequently - together with his wife Valerie Kuinka, a violist with Esprit Orchestra - asked Esprit's Music Director to compose a piece in two versions that they could perform together, either with orchestra or piano accompaniment.

JOSÉ EVANGELISTA (Canada)

Symphonie minute

for orchestra, 1994

- i. *Envol*
- ii. *Mélopée*
- iii. *Combat*
- iv. *Presto chromatique*

A symphony in miniature form, this work of rapid tempi and nervous, light character, forgoes the grand proportions and expressions of traditional symphonic repertoire to captivate the ear through textures and gestures unique to each of its four contrasting movements.

COLIN MCPHEE (Canada)

Symphony No. 2 (Pastorale), 1957

- i. *Moderato misterioso*
- ii. *Elegy*
- iii. *Molto energico*

Colin McPhee's symphony recalls the music of Bali as through a scrim - distant, hazy, seductively mysterious. Lyrical, and based on pentatonic scale forms, this work reverberates with the composer's nostalgic associations and cross-references to his immersion in the music and culture of that paradisaical island.

daytime activities

Saturday, November 30, 1996

All Saturday events take place at the St. Lawrence Centre, 27 Front Street East

Saturday morning and afternoon events are **free of charge** and open to the general public. Space is limited. To reserve, contact Esprit at (416) 599-7880.

Please book by Wednesday, November 27.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. film screening are \$10. Details are provided on the Ticket Information panel of this brochure.

COFFEE WITH R. MURRAY SCHAFER

9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. / lower lobby of the Jane Mallett Theatre

Join us for this opportunity to meet informally with R. Murray Schafer. He will discuss his music being heard in the festival in relation to his overall artistic philosophy. Complimentary muffins, fruit, coffee and tea will be served.

CORTÈGE - OPEN REHEARSAL

10:00 a.m. to noon / Jane Mallett Theatre

Since its premiere in 1977, Schafer's *Cortège* has been performed widely throughout the world. The role of the conductor is important in the piece. As Schafer explains, the conductor "must be a magician and a choreographer. He must organize the players' movements with great care and must ensure that they move in accordance with the intention of the piece."

BUFFET LUNCH - COMPLIMENTARY

noon to 1:15 p.m. / lower lobby, Jane Mallett Theatre

Join us for a buffet lunch in the lobby of the Jane Mallett Theatre. You will have the opportunity to meet informally with R. Murray Schafer, plus trumpet soloist Stuart Laughton, for whom *The Falcon's Trumpet* - also being heard in the festival - was commissioned. Joining them will be Rhombus Media co-founder Larry Weinstein.

COFFEE & FILM CLIPS WITH RHOMBUS MEDIA'S LARRY WEINSTEIN

1:30 to 2:30 / upper lobby, Jane Mallett Theatre

Formed in 1979, Rhombus Media Inc. has become Canada's leading producer of films and television programmes on the performing arts. Director Larry Weinstein is recognized around the world for his high-quality productions, acclaimed by critics and audiences alike.

* **Saturday, November 30, 1996**

screening 8:00 p.m./pre-screening talk 7:15 p.m.

Jane Mallett Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre

27 Front Street East

september songs: the music of Kurt Weill

a film by Rhombus Media Inc., directed by Larry Weinstein
(35 mm format screening)

Join us in advance of this screening of *September Songs: The Music of Kurt Weill* when Larry Weinstein will discuss both the film itself as well as the art and business of producing performing arts films. In recent years, Weinstein has become Canada's pre-eminent director of films on musical subjects. He has more than a dozen award-winning films to his credit, and his films for television have appeared in over 35 countries.

September Songs, produced in 1994 by Canada's Rhombus Media, features many of Kurt Weill's most-remembered songs as performed by some of today's leading rock, pop, jazz, classical and underground artists - including Elvis Costello, Teresa Stratas, PJ Harvey and Lou Reed. The film is a brilliant collage of these rare performances and images of the turbulent times in which Weill lived and worked.

The screening of *September Songs* helps celebrate ten years of collaboration between Esprit and this world-renowned Canadian film maker.

*Tickets for the screening of *September Songs* can be purchased at the St. Lawrence Centre box office. For details see the Ticket Information panel in this brochure.

Sunday, December 1, 1996

8:00 p.m.

Jane Mallett Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre
27 Front Street East

Join us in the theatre lobby after
the concert for a Festival Wrap Party.

orchestral - theatre orchestral - film

guest artist

STUART LAUGHTON (Canada), trumpet

R. MURRAY SCHAFER (Canada)

Cortège, 1977

Cortège takes the form of a surreal, dream-like, ceremonial procession with the orchestral players - in slow motion and pantomime - moving through the concert hall guided by the conductor who takes on the roles of magician and choreographer. The counterpoint between sound and gesture in *Cortège* sets up startling new relationships amongst the players and between the orchestra and audience.

R. MURRAY SCHAFER (Canada)

The Falcon's Trumpet

for trumpet and orchestra, 1995

R. Murray Schafer has declared that his greatest interest lies in musical forms not constrained by the walls of a concert hall. The forest, the garden, an unusual architectural setting - these are

(continued on next page)



locales which stimulate and inspire the composer. *The Falcon's Trumpet* orchestrally re-creates the sense of an outdoor environment and imbues the trumpet solo with the majesty of a falcon in soaring flight.

In celebrating ten years of collaboration, Esprit and Rhombus Media have, for this concert, created a unique blend of filmed and live performances highlighting favourite musical and film excerpts selected by director Larry Weinstein and conductor Alex Pauk. This event not only reflects on past accomplishments but sets the stage for new collaborations, beginning soon with the production of a film devoted to the life and music of Colin McPhee.

Esprit performance excerpts from:

TORU TAKEMITSU (Japan)

Toward the Sea II, 1981

IANNIS XENAKIS (Greece)

For the Whales, 1982

KURT WEILL (Germany)

selections from *Öl-Musik*, 1928

plus *Weill Variations* by Alex Pauk, 1995

Rhombus film excerpts from:

For the Whales

Ravel

September Songs: The Music of Kurt Weill

Festival Packages are available. Please see the Ticket Information panel in this brochure for details on buying packages or single tickets to all festival events.

ESPRIT ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL

TICKET INFORMATION

Single Tickets

	ADULT	STUDENT / SENIOR
concert (Nov. 29 and Dec. 1)		
single	\$26	\$12.50
group (10 or more)	\$13	\$8
film (Nov. 30)	\$10	\$10

Festival Packages*

Buy a Festival Package and save up to 27% on festival events.
See the attached order form for details and to order your packages.

three festival events	\$45	\$27
(evening: Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 1)		

Tickets for the Esprit Orchestra Festival go on sale September 16, 1996 and are available at the St. Lawrence Centre Box Office, 27 Front Street East or by calling (416) 366-7723 (credit card purchases only).

*GST applies to all ticket prices. A handling charge will be added to all telephone, group and Festival Package orders.

mail this form (or take in person) to:

St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts
Subscription Office (Esprit)
27 Front Street East
Toronto, ON M5E 1B4

or call:

(416) 366-7723
(credit card purchases only)

The SLC box office is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Saturday.



collects ticket fees on behalf of Esprit Orchestra but cannot be responsible for refunds should performances be cancelled. Each ticket includes a \$1.00 Capital Improvement Fund surcharge. All programmes are subject to change without notice. Should an artist be unable to appear, Esprit reserves the right to make arrangements for substitute performers. Sorry, no refunds.

ESPRIT ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL PACKAGE ORDER FORM

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / TOWN

POSTAL CODE

TELEPHONE (RES.)

(BUS.)

☐

Wheelchair seating required

☐

Cheque enclosed (payable to Esprit Orchestra)

☐

visa

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mastercard

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amex

CARD NO.

EXP. DATE

SIGNATURE

all orders please specify:

☐

orchestra

☐

balcony

NUMBER OF PACKAGES		PRICE PER	TOTAL
adult	x	\$45	= \$
student/senior*	x	\$27	= \$

*(ID is required for each subscription: please provide card no. or photocopy.)

Festival Package total

\$

**handling (\$2 per ticket up to \$10)

\$

subtotal

GST (7% of subtotal)

\$

payment amount

\$

please help Esprit through your fully tax-receiptable donation

\$

Esprit is a registered charitable organization (no. 0714998-22)

payment plus donation

\$

** A handling charge is added to all Festival Package, phone or group orders. GST applies to all ticket prices.

ESPRIT GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING
FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE ESPRIT ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL



The Canada Council
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